

Mimus polyglottos. MOCKINGBIRD.

The power of song in this bird is a subject that never ceases to be interesting. My observations on the subject lead me to conclude that the great majority are not very gifted singers, and that the wonderful variety of notes so often described is possessed by a small percentage only.

Surrounded by orange groves, which are a favorite haunt of the Mocker, our home was amongst dozens of Mockingbirds, but only two seemed to be great singers. Later we moved to a new place, two miles further from Sanford, and there there was but one great singer among the Mockingbirds of that neighborhood. The cries of the Sparrow Hawk and the Loggerhead Shrike seem to be possessed by all, but whenever I heard one utter any other note it seemed striking. A Mockingbird that frequented our place imitated the Blue Jay, Bob-white, Sparrow Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Cardinal and Bluebird, besides having its own individual song. The same bird imitated a chicken in distress so perfectly that I several times believed a Hawk had visited the hen-yard.

**DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF *ICTERUS*
FROM ANDROS ISLAND, BAHAMAS.**

BY J. A. ALLEN.

THROUGH the kindness of Mr. John I. Northrop, of the School of Mines, Columbia College, New York, I have the pleasure of making known a new species of *Icterus* from Andros Island, one of the larger islands of the Bahaman group. During four months spent recently on Andros Island, Mr. and Mrs. Northrop devoted much attention to birds, collecting about seventy species, among them several new to the Bahamas, as well as the novelty about to be described, which adds not only a new genus to the Bahaman fauna, but a new species to science. The species is represented by nine specimens, three of which are adult males,

one immature male, one adult female, three immature females, and another immature specimen of which the sex could not be determined. As shown by Mr. Northrop's notes given below, he found the species not uncommon. It is known to the residents of the island as the 'Cocoanut Bird,' and is said to be resident throughout the year.

Icterus northropi, sp. nov.

Adult Male.—Whole anterior half of the body, as far as the middle of the breast below, and including the interscapulum above, together with the wings (except the lesser and median coverts), and tail, deep black; rest of the body, the thighs, lesser and median wing-coverts, edge of the wing, lower wing-coverts and axillars, rich lemon-yellow; greater wing-coverts and primaries very narrowly edged, and the outer tail-feathers very narrowly tipped with white. Bill and feet black; lower mandible with the basal third bluish. In one specimen the longest two lower tail-coverts are mixed yellow and black; in the other specimens they are all wholly yellow.

Adult female.—Similar to the male, except slightly smaller, and with the black a little less lustrous.

Young.—Immature birds of probably the second year are olivaceous gray above, brighter and more yellowish on the front of the head; lesser wing-coverts, lower back, rump, upper tail-coverts, and whole lower surface greenish yellow, brightest on the rump and middle of the abdomen; median wing-coverts pale sulphur yellow; greater coverts brown, edged with whitish; chin, throat, and cheeks much mixed with black, which here prevails over the yellow; there are scattered black feathers over the breast and head, and in one specimen blackish patches on the outer edge of the scapulars and sides of the breast; wings and tail brown, the remiges edged with whitish, and the rectrices with olive.

Other specimens in a less advanced stage are similar, except that there are fewer black feathers intermixed with the yellow, the chin and the front edge of the cheeks alone being decidedly blackish, and the back is less olivaceous.

Measurements.—Length (from skins), 205 mm. (195–215 mm.); wing, 94 mm. (90–99 mm.); tail, 94 mm. (90–97 mm.); culmen, 22 mm. (21–22 mm.); tarsus, 25 mm. (24–27 mm.).

Types. No. 49,911, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., ♂ ad., Andros Island, Bahamas, June, 1890; Mr. and Mrs. John I. Northrup. No. 49,912, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., ♀ ad., Andros Island, Bahamas, April 16, 1890.

The extent and distribution of the black and yellow in the adults are the same as in *P. wagleri* except that the tail-coverts are yellow instead of black; the tint of the yellow is nearly as in

I. dominicensis, from which it differs in having the whole lower parts yellow from the middle of the breast posteriorly, instead of the yellow being confined to the sides of the abdomen and crissum. The two species agree in general size, but in *I. northropi* the bill is much stouter than in *I. dominicensis*.

It is surprising that a bird so conspicuous, and apparently so common, as this should hitherto have escaped observation, Andros Island having been several times previously visited by ornithologists.

Mr. Northrop has kindly presented the types of this species to the American Museum of Natural History, and contributes the following notes on its habits and distribution.

“The above species of *Icterus* was first collected by us at Nicol’s Town, near the northern end of Andros, on April 8, 1890. We had been there nearly a month when one morning a new note called us out of the house, and we saw three or four of these birds flying about the shrubs near by. They were so tame and unsuspecting, that when one was shot, the others kept their positions undisturbed until they met a similar fate. Of the three we got then, one was a male, one a female, and one we could not determine, but they were all in immature plumage. Two weeks or so later, while on a trip to the west side, we saw a number of these birds near Red Bays, and this time were fortunate enough to get a male and female in full plumage. They were flying about the palmettoes, or the flower stalk of an Agave which was a mass of golden blossoms and a great attraction to all the birds in the neighborhood, as the flowers contained a large amount of nectar. While here one day, we heard a great commotion near by, and approaching the scene found two of these young birds fighting so violently that we almost got near enough to take them up in our hands. The only sound we heard them utter here was a rather plaintive call of two notes; but a month later, on May 22, we heard their song. It was a sort of whistle of eight or nine notes, very sweet and pleasing, and almost always given with the same intervals, and the same arrangement of notes. The bird was observed in two other localities, the last time, June 18, near Wide Opening on the west side. It seems to inhabit the more open portions of the island, near the coast, as we never saw any inland.

“The natives say that it builds its nest in the cocoanut trees, and is always about them, hence its local name of ‘Cocoanut Bird.’ They also told us that it remained throughout the year; that the eggs were pure white; and that the young birds differed from the old in plumage. From the condition of the organs of generation, it seems that the bird breeds during the month of June.

“The stomachs of those examined contained the remains of a grasshopper, beetles, and seeds; hence it may be inferred that its food consists of fruits and insects.”

A LIST OF BIRDS FROM NORTHEAST BORNEO,
WITH FIELD NOTES BY MR. C. F. ADAMS.

BY D. G. ELLIOT.

THE greater portion of the species enumerated in this paper were obtained by Mr. Adams in the vicinity of Sandakan. The extent and character of the region explored in making this collection is very fully described by Mr. Adams in the following paragraphs, which, with the field notes relating to the species, he has kindly furnished. Mr. Adams sent his collection of birds to the American Museum of Natural History for identification, and specimens of all the species given below (except three, Nos. 43, 58 and 83, included on Mr. Adams's own authority) have passed through my hands. The types of *Copsychus adamsi* (sp. nov.), and a set of duplicates from the collection, have been kindly presented by Mr. Adams to the American Museum.

[The following notes refer to birds collected in a narrow east and west tract lying in that particular part of British North Borneo between 5° 30' and 5° 40' N. Lat., and crossed by the meridian of 118° E., during the time from May, 1887, until Feb., 1888, while making a specialty of collecting the mammals of that region. The list includes a fair representation of what one may expect to find in that locality, although in a number of cases but one specimen of a species was observed. As is usual with the coast region of Borneo, this region is for the most part low, with occasionally